

Attorney's Docket 4402-5

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Nilsson

Examiner:

Ser. No.:

Art Group:

6/Pr Art A
EP
12-7-02

Title: CONNECTING DEVICE

Filed: 4 April 2002

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This Preliminary Amendment is filed as a part of the national stage entry of PCT application SE00/01927, which was filed on 5 October 2000, which is in turn based on Swedish application 9903585.9, filed on 5 October 1999. The fees for the claims should be calculated based on the claims remaining after the entry of this Preliminary Amendment, which results in 39 total and 2 independent claims.

Amendments to the Disclosure

None at this time.

Amendments to the Claims

After the heading "CLAIMS" and before the beginning of the claims, please insert the words: -- What is claimed is: --

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (amended) A connecting [Connecting] element for joining two support members [(2, 3)] absorbing tensile forces, said [which] connecting element comprising: [(1) comprises] at least a first and a second casing body [(5, 6)] with a through-hole [(7)] in each said casing body for receiving the respective support members [(2, 3)], which casing bodies [(5,6)] can be joined together by way of a joining section [(9)] at a first end [(11)] of each casing body [(5, 6)], the opposing second end [(13)] of each casing body [(5, 6)] being provided with a locking member [members (15, 16)] for holding the support members [(2, 3)] fast,

wherein [characterized in that] in a working position the locking member [(15, 16)] of at least one casing body [(5, 6)] produces an axial locking of the support member [(2, 3)]